Rice Production

3534. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether his Ministry is laying emphasis on the rice production in the country;

(b) whether target has been fixed for the Ninth Plan and the Stae-wise strategy is being adopted;

(c) if so, the details thereof, particularly, the efforts made in that regard in Orissa;

(d) the task assigned to the Rice Research Institute to increase rice production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Planning Commission has fixed a production target of 99 million tonnes of rice for the terminal year of Ninth Plan. The strategy being adopted for increasing the production & productivity of rice *inter-alia* includes incentives to the farmers for the use of critical inputs like seeds of high yielding varities/hybrids, improved farm implements including power tillers and sprinkler sets and organisation of field demonstrations and farmers training through Integrated Cereals Development programme (ICDP) in Rice Based, Wheat Based and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas. As a result of these efforts the productivity of rice has increased from 996 kg. per ha. during triennium ending 1984-85 to 1195 kg. per ha. during triennium ending 1998-99 in Orissa.

(d) and (e) There are two Central Rice Research Institutes under Indian Council of Agricultural Research namely: Directorate of Rice Research (DRR) and Central Rice Research Institute (CRRI). The task assigned to these Institutes are as follows:—

DRR

- To coordinate multilocation testing at national level, in order to identify appropriate varietal and management technologies for all ecosystems.
- To conduct strategic and applied research on all thrust areas of irrigated rice.

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- To coordinate and monitor research networks relating to problems of national and regional priority like hybrid rice, biotechnology, quality rice, germplasm evaluation for biotic stresses.
- To accelerate the pace of technology transfer and develop innovative extension models.

CRRI

- Increase in production and productivity of rice in India in all agro-ecosystems:
- Irrigated, upland, rainfed low-land and deep water research through multi-disciplinary approach are the major activities of the Central Rice Research Institute.

Minimum Support Price for Copra

3535. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of the fall in prices of coconut in Kerala and other parts of the country where it is being produced, due to the inordinate delay in declaring the Minimum Support Price for Copra though season has already started in December, 1999;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in declaring the MSP on time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) to (c) There has been some decline in the prices of copra in recent months. However the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of copra has since been announced for 2000 season. The MSP for milling copra of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) has been fixed at Rs. 3250 per quintal and that of Ball copra of FAQ at Rs. 3500 per qtl. Meanwhile, National Agricultural Coopeative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED), had been instructed to purchase copra at the MSP rate of 1999 and refund the different between the old and revised MSP to the growers. NAFED has already procured over 9160 tonnes of milling copra and the procurement is continuing.